FINAL REPORT HEADSET ASSEMBLIES CONTRACT NAS 9-5155

National Aeronautics and Space Administration Manned Spacecraft Center Houston, Texas

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of work performed by the contractor in fulfilling the requirements of Contract NAS 9-5155. A complete headset assembly capable of being used inside an Apollo-type space helmet was designed and two prototype headsets were delivered to NASA on 23 March 1966.

The completed headset, as shown in Figure 1, consists of two boom mounted, dynamic, noise cancelling microphones with solid state amplifiers mounted within the boom, two dynamic earphone assemblies and mounting hardware including provisions for changing the earcushion clamping pressure. The system is designed for optimum operation at an ambient pressure of 5 psia. A more complete description of the headset design is included in section 2.0 of this report.

The design, testing and fabrication of the two prototype headsets was performed during the six and one-half month period starting on September 3, 1965 with the Design Coordination Meeting at NASA, Houston and ending on March 23, 1966 with the delivery of the headsets.

The important milestones in the performance of the required work are as follows:

Contract award August 24, 1965

Design Coordination Meeting September 3, 1965

Preliminary Design Completion November 10, 1965

Final Design Review Meeting December 2, 1965



Figure 1

Development Tests Completed

Delivery of Units

January 3, 1966

March 23, 1966

2.0 HEADSET DESIGN

Designing for the requirements of operation at 5 psia pressure, operation during short periods of high acoustic noise followed by relatively long periods of lower acoustic noise, minimum weight, small size and high sensitivity has resulted in a design with the following unique features:

- in diameter by 0.5 inches thick capable of providing a 22 db signal to noise ratio in a simulated use test, with a frequency response at 5 psia within ±3 db from 300 cps to 3000 cps.
- b. An adjustable damping pressure on the earcushions for use during periods of high acoustic noise.
- c. A dynamic earphone transducer 2 inches in diameter by 5/8 inches thick with a sensitivity of 111 db SPL for one milliwatt input and a frequency response within ±3 db from 300 cps to 3000 cps (both measurements at 5 psia ambient pressure).
- d. A weight of 329 grams (less cable and connector).

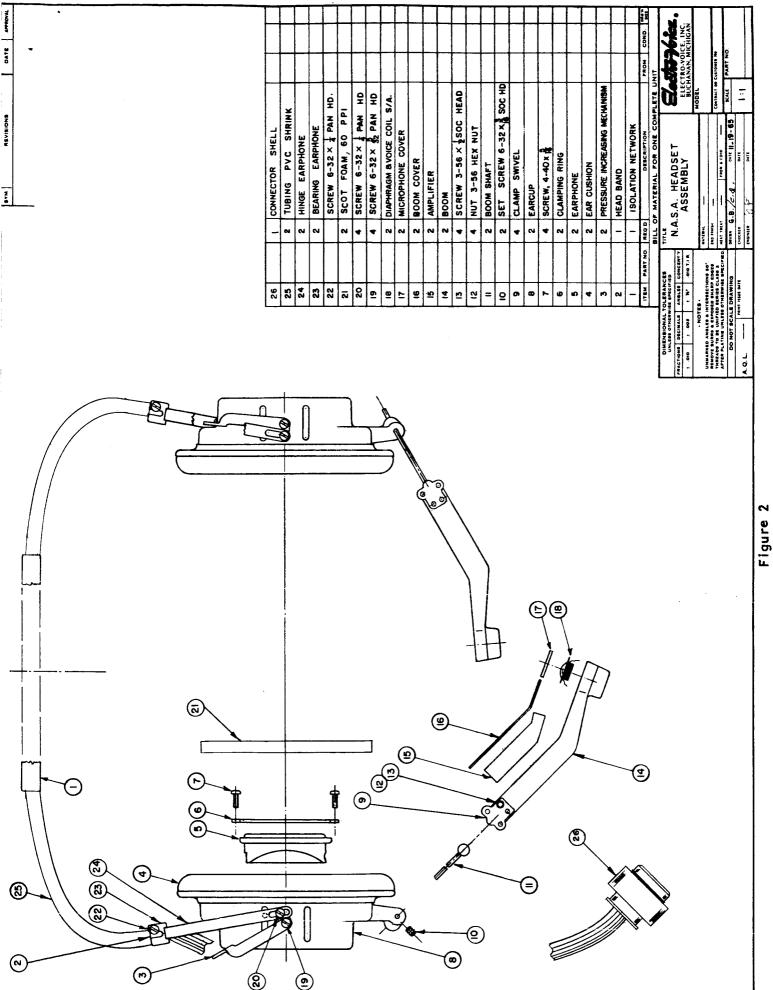
The headset as designed consists of the following components:

- a. Two microphones with self contained amplifiers.
- b. Two earphone assemblies.
- c. Headband and earcup support hardware.
- d. Connector and wiring harness.

An assembly drawing of the complete headset is shown in Figure 2.

2.1 Microphone

The microphone assembly consists of a microphone transducer, amplifier and microphone boom. When assembled, these elements



form an integral structure connected to the bottom of the earcup and extending forward to the side of the mouth. Adjustment of the microphone assembly is accomplished by means of a
slide adjustment at the mechanical connection to the earcup
and in a ball swivel at the rear of the microphone boom
molding. Adjustment is sufficient to permit the microphone
to be moved free of the mouth area during eating.

The electrical and acoustical design goals for the microphone that were set forth in the contract 'Statement' were achieved as evidenced by the results of the acceptance tests performed on the prototype headsets as shown in Figures 3 through 6. The electrical output at 1 KC for a SPL input of 106 db was -1 dbm, well within the limits of 0 dbm ±2 db. The frequency response curves (see Figure 5) were within the limits of ±3 db over the range of 300 cps to 3000. The noise cancellation characteristics exceeded 20 db difference between simulated voice and noise signals. An additional noise cancellation measurement in the form of close and distance frequency response curves was performed during the development tests and the result of this measurement is shown in Figure 7. The validity of noise cancellation measurements performed at ambient pressures as an indication of noise cancellation characteristics at 5 psia was also established during the development tests.

To reduce the size and weight of the microphone transducer, an Alnico IX magnet and 2V permendur steel structure are used in the magnetic assembly as shown in Figure 8.

HEADSET #1

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Figure 3

Headset #1

12. Variations of temperature and supply voltage:

Temperature	Supply Voltage	Microphone Output for 106ab sal	splat which clipping occurred (ilb de minimum)
40°F	24 v	+5_dbm	126.6/16
40 ⁰ F 40 ⁰ F	. 28 v	+6_dbm	124.4
40°F	32 v	+6 _dbm	124.4
arab i en t	24 v	- 1.2 dbm	123.5 db
ambie nt	* - 28 v	- 1.0 days	123.5 10
ambient	32 v	- 1.0 dbm	123.5 db
90 <mark>°</mark> F	24 v	+ .4 dbc	122 do
90°F	23 v	+dbre	122 an
90 °F	32 v	+ 5bm	122Gb

13. Earphone linearity:

Power Input	s p1 (di	b)	
Milliwatts	Right	Left	
.126	95.5 db	98_db	95 db minimum
4.0	1 <u>11</u> ab	111.55	110 db minisum
126.4	125.5 db	128 db	125 db minicam

Figure 3

HEADSET #2

DATA SHEET

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Figure 4

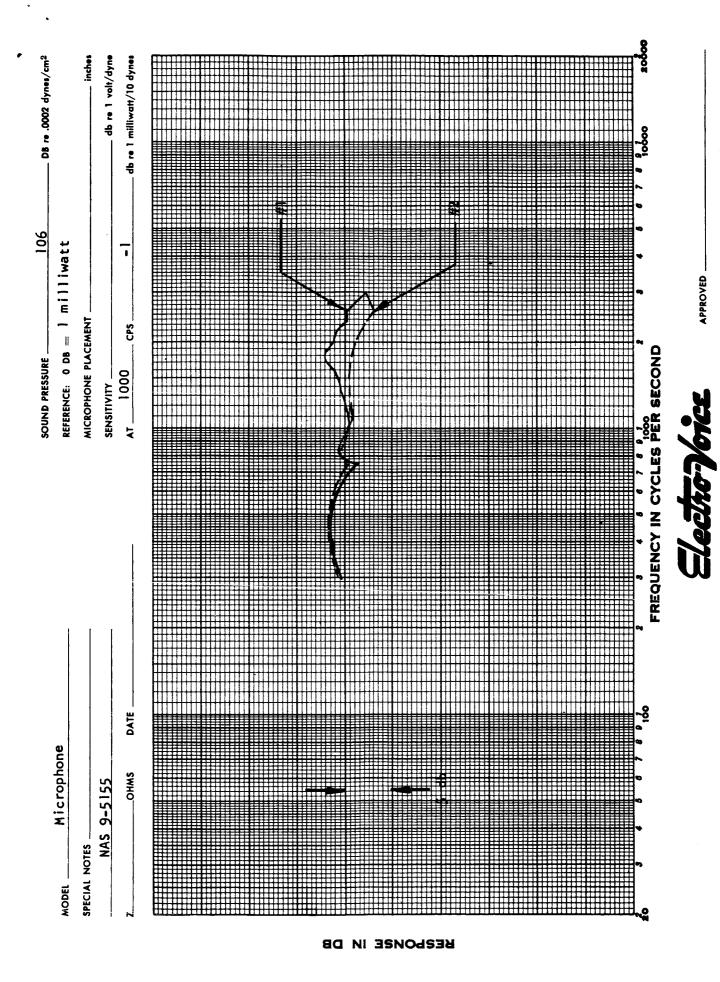
12. Variations of temperature and supply voltage:

			splat aluch
		Microphone	clipping occurred
Temperature	Supply Volta	ge Ourput for 106db sp	(116 ib minimum)
40°F	24 v	-1.6 dbm	122 db
40°F 40°F	28 v	_1 g dbm	121 6 db
40°F	32 v	-1.5 dbm	121.6 db
ambient	24 v	-1.1 dbm	123.5 db
ambient	28 v	-1 dbm	123.5 co
ambient	32 v	- dbm	123.5 db
90 ⁰ F	24 v	3 dbn	122 do
90 ⁰ F	28 v	+ 11 dbm	121.1 db
90°F	32 v	+ 11 abn	121.1 ab

13. Earphone linearity:

Power Input	spi (di	(db)			
Milliwatts	Right	Left			
.126	97.5 db	96 db	95 db minimum		
4.0	111.5 db	111.5ab	110 db minimum		
126.4	127.5 db	126 db	125 db minimum		

Figure 4



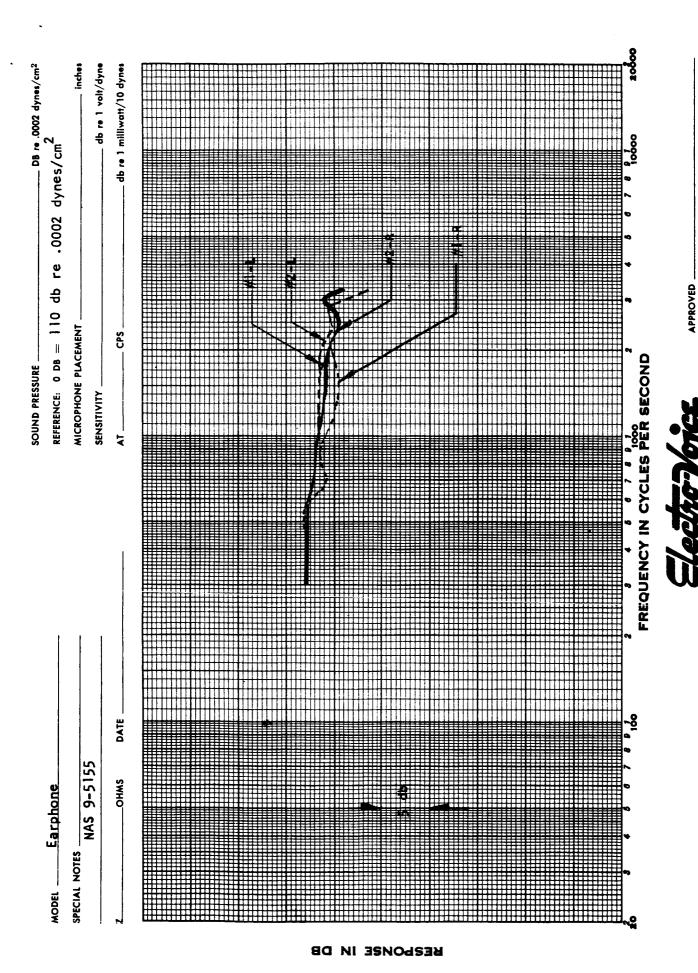
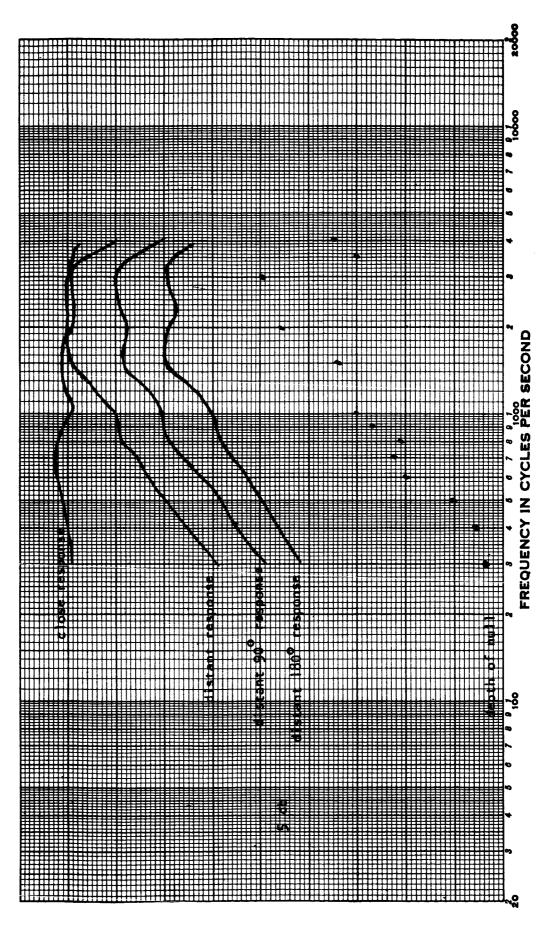
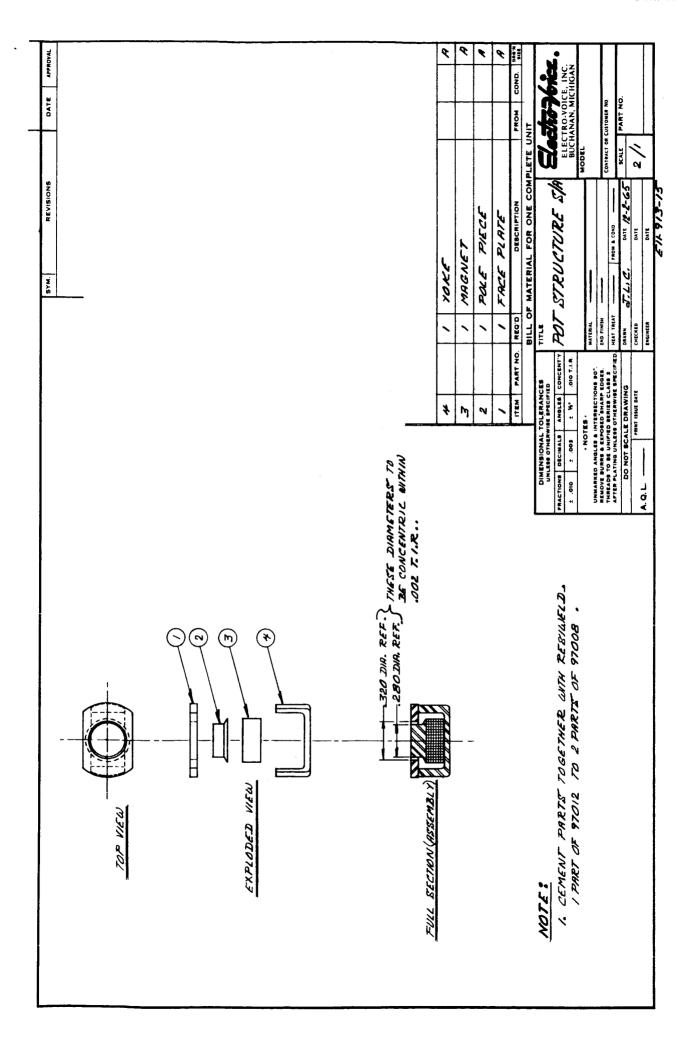


Figure 6

Corrected Curves Ground Level





This assembly is insert molded as a part of the microphone boom as shown in Figure 9.

The microphone amplifiers are fabricated using welded, cord-wood construction and are potted in the microphone boom. A cover is cemented over the open section of the boom to protect the cable connections and amplifier.

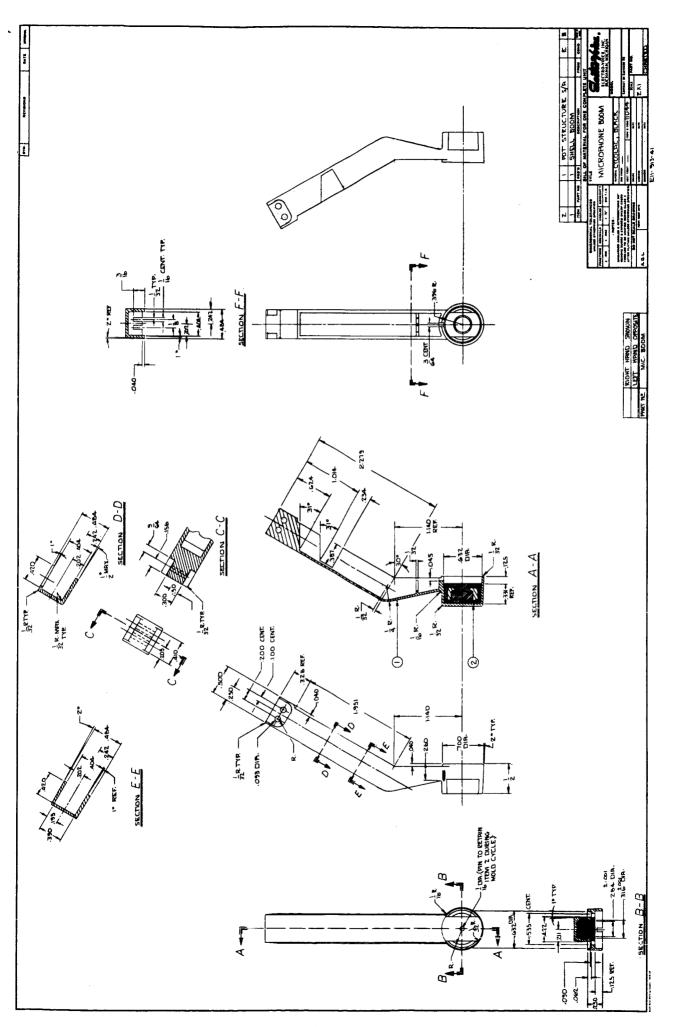
The amplifiers designs are shown in Figures 10 and 11. A combination regulator and capacitor multipliers is used in the power feed to permit operation over the power supply voltage variation specified (28 ± 4 v. d.c.) and to reduce the affect of ripple in the supply. The amplifier is a d.c. coupled two stage amplifier utilizing d.c. bias feedback and a thermistor to provide temperature stability. The IN276 diode prevents amplifier damage due to d.c. supply voltage reversal. The amplifier is designed to operate from a 28 v. source with a 560 Ω isolation resistor.

2.2 Earphone Assemblies

The earphone assembly consists of an earphone transducer, an earcup and an earmuff (see Figure 2).

The earphone transducer is a dynamic type, constructed as an integral sub assembly to reduce acoustic and mechanical coupling to the microphone and to permit measurement of its acoustic parameters on a 6 cc coupler.

The principal problem encountered during the design of the earphone transducer was the achievement of the required sensitivity



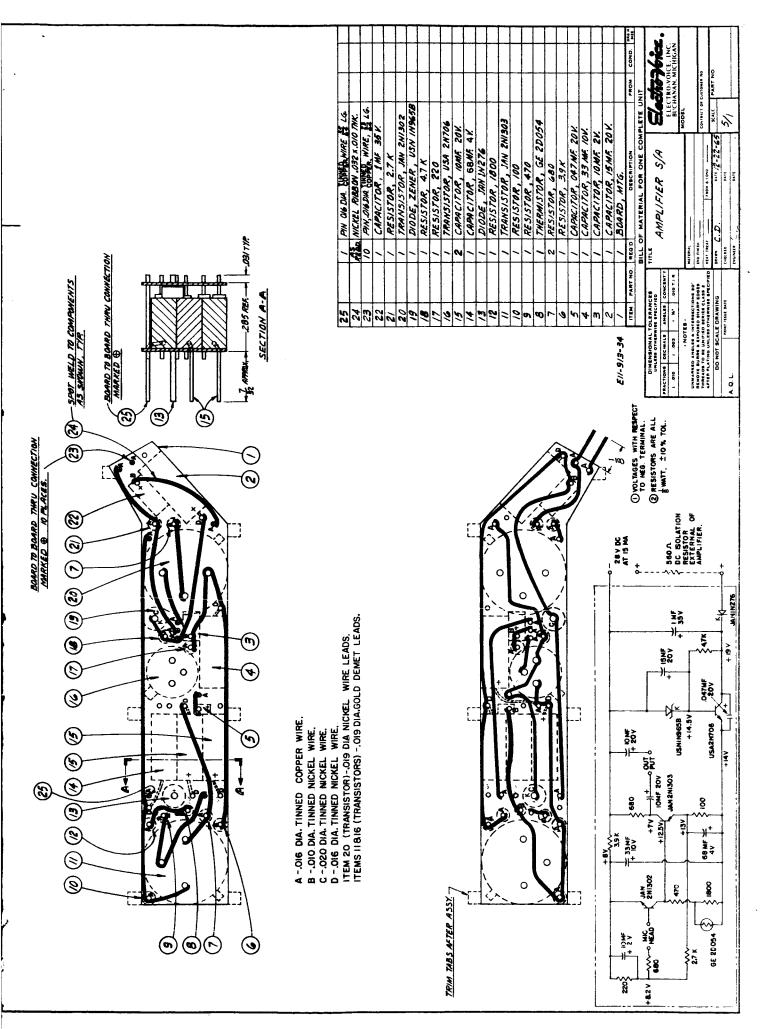
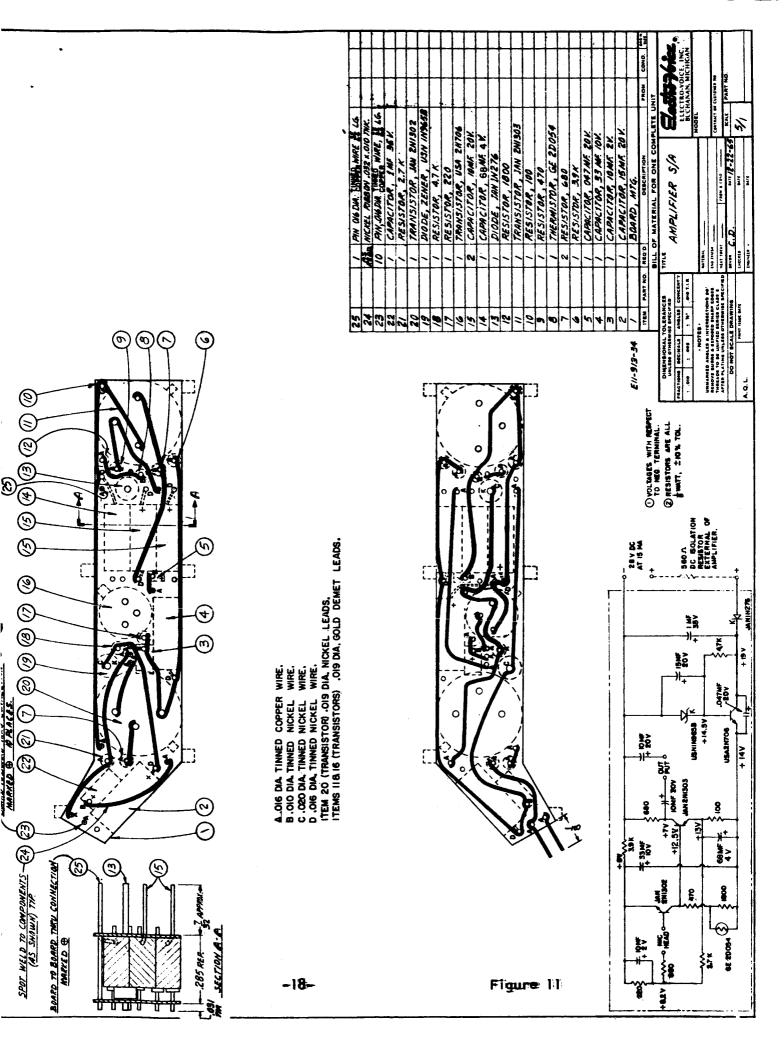


Figure 10



at 5 psia (110 db SPL at 1 KC for 1 millivolt input) without exceeding the weight goal of 49 grams. These objectives were successfully achieved as evidenced by the measurements performed on the prototype headsets (see Figures 3 and 4). The weight of each prototype earphone transducer was 43 grams.

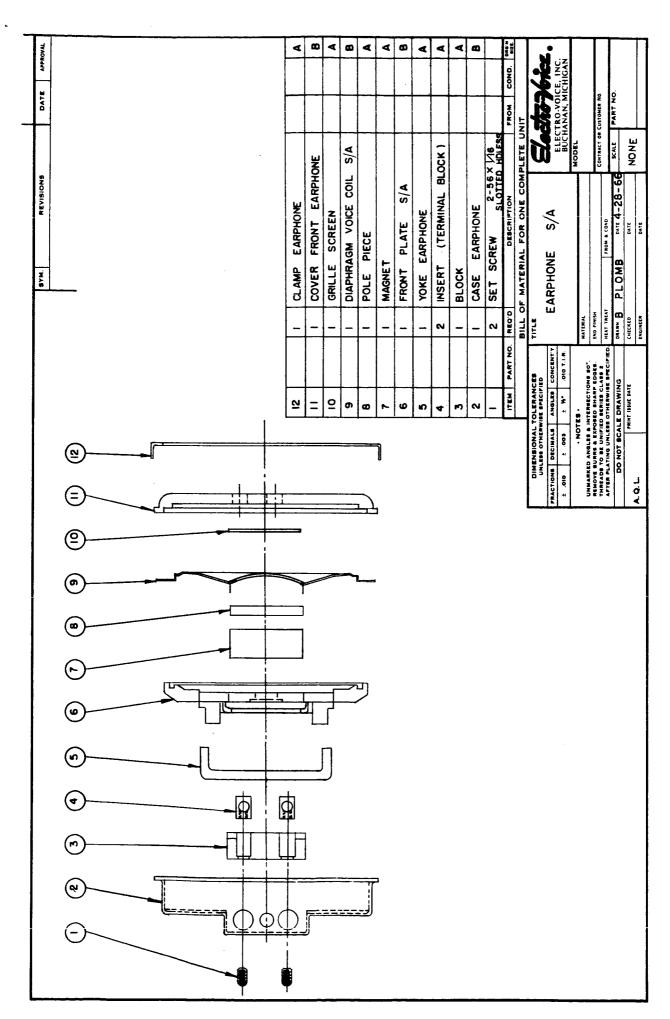
To obtain maximum sensitivity a magnetic structure using an Alnico IX magnet and 2V permendur steel has been utilized.

The assembly of these parts is shown in Figure 12. The weight of the assembly was kept to a minimum through the use of an ABS plastic cover and an aluminum rear case.

The frequency response curves of the prototype earphone transducers (measured at 5 psia) are shown in Figure 6. The results of the remaining acceptance tests on the earphone transducer are shown in Figures 3 and 4.

The transducer impedance was achieved without the use of transformers through the utilization of fine wire (#49) copper voice coils. The compatibility of this small diameter wire with the requirement of the 'Statement of Work' for a power handling capability of 50 mw was successfully demonstrated during the development tests.

The basic function of the earcup and earcushion is to provide an area surrounding the ear in which external noise is attenuated. Measurement of the earcup attenuation by objective methods was performed during the development tests and results of this test, which conform to the requirements in the 'Statement of Work' are shown in Figure 13.



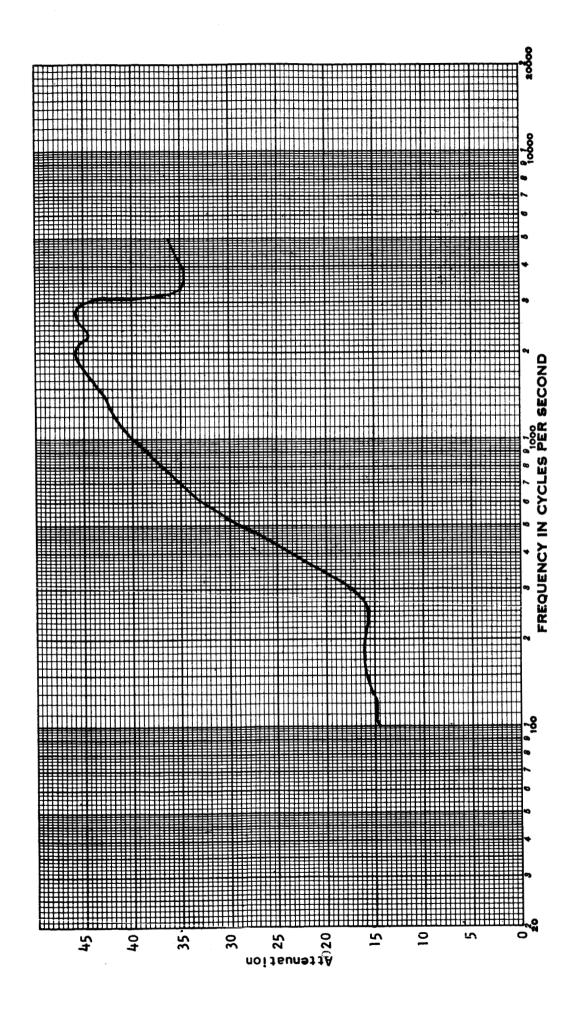


Figure 13

The earcups were fabricated from ABS plastic and contain metal inserts for fastening purposes. The earphone transducer is secured to the earcup by means of a metal plate as shown in Figure 2. The earcushion is a plastic foam cushion heat sealed inside a vinyl cover. The cushion is stretched over a backing plate that is shaped to conform to normal head dimensions.

2.3 Headband and Earcup Support Hardware

The headset is supported on the head by the headband which also provides the clamping force which seals the earcushions against the head. The headband consists of two 0.113 diameter steel wires joined at each end by nylon blocks which are attached by a sliding fit to aluminum yokes. The yoke is attached to the earcup by a swivel which permits an increase in clamping by means of a U shaped bar which is rotated from the top of the earcup to the bottom of the earcup. This feature allows the user to increase the clamping pressure on the earcushions and thereby increase noise attenuation during periods of high noise environment. The headband also supports the electrical terminal box at its center. The exposed portions of the headband are covered with PVC shrink tubing.

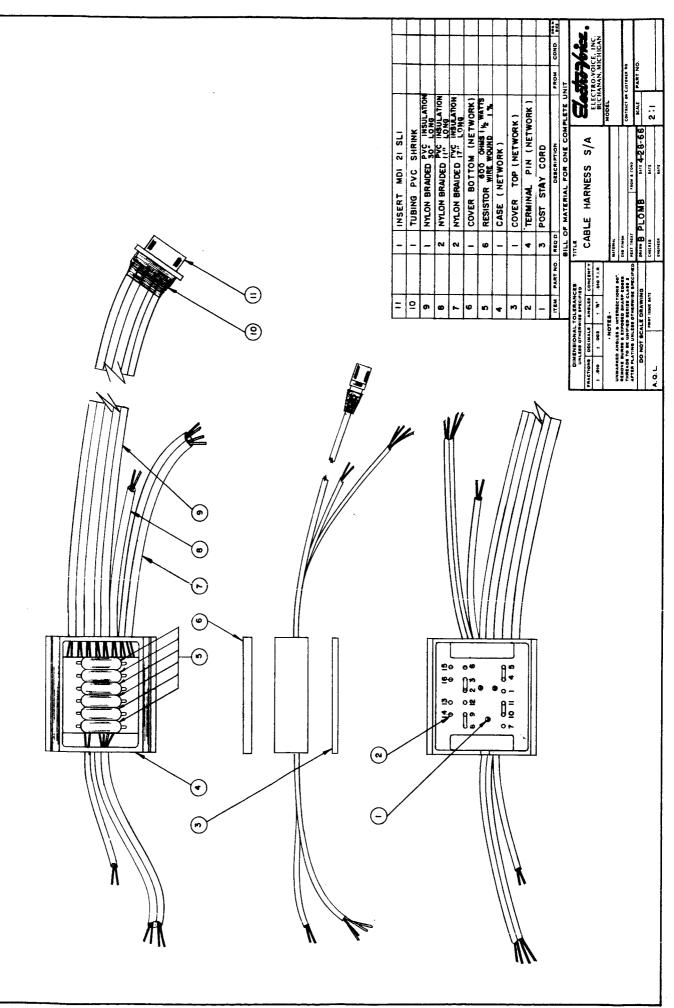
2.4 Connector and Wiring Harness

The headset is designed to connect to the Apollo communications system by means of a MD1-21SL1 Cannon insert mounted in an 832-1 Air Lock housing. The connector is wired to a five, shielded pair cable. Each pair is insulated from all other pairs in a woven, flat construction. This cable attaches to the headset

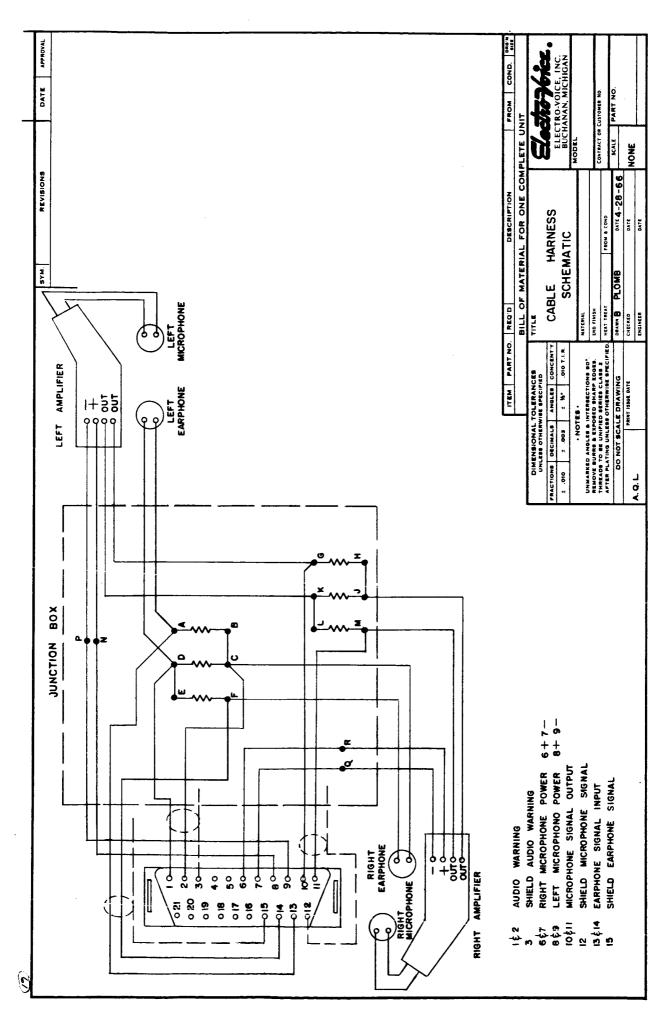
at a terminal block mounted on the headband at the top of the headset. The terminal block contains terminations for the five pair cable, the isolation networks, and terminations for the cables connecting the microphones and earphones. The wiring harness and termination block are shown in the drawing on page 24 (Figure 14).

The two pair cable connecting the microphone to the terminal block is threaded through the earcup to avoid mechanical interference with the pressure adjusting mechanism.

The wiring of the headset, including pin connections to the Cannon insert, is shown in Figure 15.



DATE APPROVAL



3.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The headset design as represented by the two prototype units delivered to NASA meet the electrical and acoustic design goals as stated in the contract 'Statement of Work' (par 4.7.1) and the contractor's technical proposal. The weight of the completed headset is 329 grams (less cable and connector) well under the original estimate of 338 grams.

Some specific recommendations concerning the headset design are as follows:

- a. The microphone amplifier has been designed to operate from a 28 ±4 volts d.c. supply with a 560 ohm isolation resistor. Specifying the supply in this manner, rather than as specified in paragraph 4.7.1.1.10 of the 'Statement', permits the utilization of the isolation resistor as a part of the microphone amplifier power supply filter, since transients peaks and ripple voltages are now considered as appearing in the 28 volt supply.
- b. The noise attenuation measurement shown in Figure 13 should be considered as being optimum since leakage around the earcushion during actual use will reduce the earcup attenuation, especially at low frequencies.
- c. The utilization of magnets with very high energy products (B x H) results in the generation of magnetic leakage fields in the area immediately surrounding the earphone and microphone transducers. Though no requirements are stated for the magnitude of these leakage fields, their existance, we feel, should be noted.

d. No provision for support of the headset during periods of high acceleration has been provided in the headset design. Some provision for this support should be provided, preferably in the helmet design.